

Application No. 09/526,317

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 2, 11, 13-15, 18-19, and 22-28 are amended. The specification, Figure 9, and claims have been amended without narrowing in order to comply with certain formalities. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure because of the inclusion of the legal phraseology "comprises" at line 2. By this Amendment, the Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to resolve this problem. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

The Examiner objected to the specification as lacking section headings. By this Amendment, the specification has been amended to add the requested section headings. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 11, 13-15, 18-19, and 22-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as his invention. The Examiner rejected claim 2 because the term "and/or" is indefinite. Applicant has amended claim 2 to resolve this concern. The Examiner rejected claim 11 for the same reason. Applicant has amended claim 11 to resolve this concern. The Examiner rejected claims 13 and 14 for lack of clear antecedent basis for the term "the contactor". Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to resolve this concern. The Examiner rejected claim 15 as an improper hybrid claim. Claim 15 has been amended to resolve this concern. The Examiner rejected claims 18 and 19 for use of the term "and/or". Claims 18 and 19 have been amended to resolve this concern. The Examiner rejected claims 22-28 as improper claims. Claims 22-28 have been rewritten to use the word "method". The

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Examiner rejected claim 25 for the use of the term "and/or". Claim 25 has been amended to resolve this concern. In light of the above-mentioned amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-28 under the doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,284,024. With this Amendment, the Applicant has filed a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c). U.S. Patent No. 6,284,024 is commonly owned with this application. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted with this Amendment, requesting the Examiner to examine the claims in light of the reference cited at page 4, line 3, of the specification.

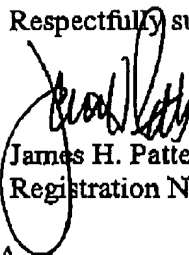
The Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84 (p)(5) for failure to include certain reference numerals in the drawings as well as the inclusion of reference numerals not mentioned in the specification. By this Amendment, the specification has been amended to recite the reference numeral "60" and Figure 9 was amended to add the reference numeral "52". Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



James H. Patterson
Registration No. 30,673

Customer No. 24113
Patterson, Thuent, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.
4800 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100
Telephone: (612) 349-5741

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James H. Patterson

Application No. 09/126,317

Abstract

A method of removing acid gas components from a gas mixture. Certain embodiments of the method comprises involve bringing the gas mixture into contact with a liquid solvent or reagent for the acid gases in a first turbulent contactor and subjecting the gas mixture and liquid to turbulent mixing conditions. This causes the acid gas to be absorbed by the solvent or reagent. The fluid mixture is passed into a second turbulent contactor and subjected to further turbulent mixing conditions causing further acid gas to be absorbed by the solvent or reagent. Optionally the fluid mixture is separated into a gas phase and liquid phase.